

ABSTRACT

5 A disposable absorbent article partially defined by a pair of longitudinally
extending side edges and a pair of end edges extending between the side edges,
includes a topsheet layer, a backsheet layer, and an absorbent core disposed between
the topsheet and the backsheet. The disposable absorbent article also has a pair of
10 side wall structures each having a pair of oppositely positioned end portions. A first
side wall structure extends generally longitudinally between the core and one of the
side edges and the other side wall structure extends generally longitudinally between
the core and the other side edge. Further, an end strip constructed from an elastic
material is positioned substantially adjacent each one of the end edges, and extends
15 laterally between the side edges. Each of the end strips includes a fixed elastic end
section disposed adjacent the end edge and secured to the topsheet, a fixed
intermediate section positioned longitudinally inward of the fixed end section, and
a movable, elastic inward section positioned longitudinally inward of the intermediate
section. The fixed elastic section forms a waistband portion each of the front and
20 back waist regions of the article. The intermediate section has a plurality of voids or
apertures which are employed to substantially de-elasticize the intermediate section.
The inward section includes a central portion spaced from the topsheet and the
absorbent core, and a pair of side portions. These side portions are secured to the end
portions of the side wall structures, thereby applying a contractile force between the
25 side wall structures such the side wall structures (as well as the side edges of the
article) are biased upwardly. The side wall structures and the inward sections are,
therefore, secured to one another and disposed to define the sidewalls of a relatively
deep containment pocket located in the crotch region..